

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to be in the form as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of controlling an arrangement of a plurality of hardware components, at least some of which are coupled to one another via signal leads, by means of a data processing unit and a computer program which is executed therein, characterized in that the computer program comprises a plurality of sub-modules (2',3') which correspond to the hardware components (2,3) and are connected via data channels in conformity with the real signal leads between the hardware components (2,3), and wherein communication occurs between the sub-modules to control the hardware components.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of controlling an arrangement of a plurality of hardware components, at least some of which are coupled to one another via signal leads, by means of a data processing unit and a computer program which is executed therein, characterized in that the computer program comprises sub-modules which correspond to the hardware components and are connected via data channels in conformity with the real signal leads between the hardware components as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the sub-modules (2',3') of the computer program and/or the data channels between the sub-modules are adapted in conformity with the dynamic changing of the hardware components and/or the signal leads between the hardware components.

Claim 3 (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that all data channels utilize the same communication protocol.

Claim 4 (original): A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the hardware components are printed circuit boards, layout cells, microchips and/or core cells.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A data and signal processing device which includes a plurality of hardware components, at least some of which are coupled to one another via signal leads, and also a data processing unit which serves to control the hardware components (2,3) and in which a computer program can be executed, characterized in that the computer program comprises a

plurality of sub-modules (2',3') which correspond to the hardware components (2,3) and are connected via data channels in conformity with the real signal leads between the hardware components (2,3), and wherein communication occurs between the sub-modules to control the hardware components.

Claim 6 (original): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 5, characterized in that it is a television set, a video recorder, a set top box or an audio apparatus.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that the sub-modules have inputs and outputs which correspond to input and outputs for the hardware components.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 7, which includes a plurality of hardware components, at least some of which are coupled to one another via signal leads, and also a data processing unit which serves to control the hardware components and in which a computer program can be executed, characterized in that the computer program comprises sub-modules which correspond to the hardware components and are connected via data channels in conformity with the real signal leads between the hardware components, wherein the data and signal processing device is a television set, a video recorder, a set top box or an audio apparatus, the sub-modules have inputs and outputs which correspond to input and outputs for the hardware components and further characterized in that a signals' validity can be reported through the inputs and outputs to the sub-modules and the hardware components.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 7, characterized in that hardware switches can establish connection through the inputs and outputs to the sub-modules and the hardware components.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 7, which includes a plurality of hardware components, at least some of which are coupled to one another via signal leads, and also a data processing unit which serves to control the hardware components and in which a computer program can be executed, characterized in that the

computer program comprises sub-modules which correspond to the hardware components and are connected via data channels in conformity with the real signal leads between the hardware components, wherein the data and signal processing device is a television set, a video recorder, a set top box or an audio apparatus, the sub-modules have inputs and outputs which correspond to input and outputs for the hardware components and further characterized in that a signals' properties can be defined through the inputs and outputs to the sub-modules and the hardware components.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that the signals' defined properties can be reported to all hardware components through the inputs and outputs to the sub-modules and the hardware components.

Claim 12 (new): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein at least one of the hardware components is a tuner.

Claim 13 (new): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 12, wherein at least one other of the hardware components is an output device operatively coupled to the tuner.

Claim 14 (new): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein communications occur between the sub-modules to prevent output of the output device for a period of time.

Claim 15 (new): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 14, wherein there is at least another tuner operatively connected to the output device through a switching device.

Claim 16 (new): A data and signal processing device as claimed in Claim 15, wherein communications occur between the sub-modules to prevent output of the output device for a period of time via the switching device.

Claim 17 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the hardware components is a tuner.

Claim 18 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one other of the hardware components is an output device operatively coupled to the tuner.

Claim 19 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein communications occur between the sub-modules to prevent output of the output device for a period of time.

Claim 20 (new): A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein there is at least another tuner operatively connected to the output device through a switching device and wherein communications occur between the sub-modules to prevent output of the output device for a period of time via the switching device.